

## PLANS OF THE DEMS

They Seek to Save at One Place but Lose in Another.

## PECULIAR DEMOCRATIC RULE

Made the Subject of Ridicule by the Older Members of the House—How They are Regarded on all Sides.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The era of democratic economy has begun in the house of representatives. Yesterday morning the committee on rules, which is the organ of the speaker, and which is to shape the policy of the house, came in with a report recommending the acceptance of a rule for the introduction of bills. In view of the illness of the speaker and of the certainty that he will not for a considerable period be able to preside over the committee on rules, which is to prepare a permanent code of rules, it was decided to have an ad interim arrangement.

The rule which was reported was not subject to particular objection, except in two particulars; first, that it provided that private bills and bills relating to river and harbor improvements should not be printed until after they have been placed upon the calendar; second, that there was no provision made for the introduction of petitions—an omission which would have had the effect to destroy the right of petition. The declaration that private bills and bills proposing river and harbor improvements should not be printed was affirmative. The reason assigned was that economy would have been effected by declining to print these bills.

Without a Following. The older members of the house smiled at this suggestion, but the republicans declined to take any part in the proceedings, as it was evident that the moment that General Catchings of Mississippi, who has been chosen by Speaker Crisp as one of his immediate representatives on the floor, arose, that he was to be a leader without a following. Division along the democratic line was soon manifested, and one might imagine himself in the democratic speaker's caucus, so many were the differing opinions and so bitter was the wrangling over the proposition which came from the wrangling leaders of the speaker.

The proposition that private bills should not be printed was a very thin disguise to conceal jobbery. The great job in congress are introduced in the form of private bills. One of the most effective means of preventing these jobs from passing to a stage when their enactment is almost certain is to give publicity to their details. What the jobbers most fear is the publicity which is given to their schemes through the newspapers and by members who have taken time to study them. If these jobs could be kept from the knowledge of the public and even of the republican members of the committees until after the committees had agreed to report them and place them upon the calendar the jobbers would have secured a very great advantage, and be in a position where a facile majority could easily put measures upon their passage.

Blunt Opposes It. Mr. Blount of Georgia, who is an honest man, was not willing that his party should be committed to any such insidious scheme. He was frank enough to say that such a proposition would open the door to the widest possible jobbery, and he said that it was known to everyone that millions of dollars were submitted to congress every year in the form of these private bills, and that it was proper that the public and members of congress should know what they were about. These facts are so well known that the statement of them is their demonstration. The democratic leaders did not have confidence enough in their ability to lead the house and force that scheme through unless the agreement could be reached without out debate. There were indications that there would be a debate which would expose this proposition to conceal jobbery. Finally the leaders of the house sought refuge under the proposition that the only purpose of the rule was to effect economy, and that it was essential for this to be done. The proposition was then made that the bills should be printed, but that the number printed should only be twenty-five. It was then suggested that it was quite recent and expedient that the house should print 100 copies of each of these bills, as the senate committee has agreed to do, and that the difference in the cost of printing twenty-five bills after the composition had been paid for, was insignificant. Upon this proposition there ensued a wrangle of an hour.

They Were Shamed Out. The Democrats were shamed out of their proposition of pretended economy on this score, and the jobbers were not successful in concealing the scheme from the press and public. But this was not accomplished until after the democrats had wasted over \$300 of the people's money in time which was consumed in debating whether or not \$50 should be saved on a printing bill. The total expenditures of the house for the time which was devoted to the discussion of this proposition to save \$50, which failed to carry is \$500. The democrats have entered upon a policy in this congress of saving at the pig-gott and losing at the luncheon, and yesterday's work is a fair illustration of their policy. Democrats who saw the absurdity of the proposition which was made with such gravity by the committee on rules, insisted that economy might be necessary, but that it is not the place to begin. That will be the trouble with the democrats all through this congress. They will discover that it is difficult to find the place to begin and for very good reasons. There is no place to begin any considerable reduction of the expenditures without doing an absurd thing or crippling the business of this great government, and the democratic leaders who know anything and are frank enough to tell the truth are beginning to admit this. The session is to be one for the manifestation of peanut politics and of penny wise and pound foolish economy.

## BEHRING SEA RIGHTS.

Station of Sir Baden-Powell—Instructed by Premier Salisbury that Great Britain Will Not Yield to the United States. LONDON, Jan. 6.—Sir George Baden-Powell, of the British Behring sea commission, has been ordered by Lord Salisbury to proceed to Washington Saturday. Sir George says that Lord Salisbury informed him that he (the British premier) wanted to avoid war with the United States; but that at the same time he wanted to be strong and to show that the government was not going to yield a jot of

British rights. Sir George also said that he thought Lord Salisbury had finally managed to bring an awkward position, which might have resulted in war, to arbitration, and remarked that he was convinced that England would win in the arbitration. According to Sir George, the British commissioners had made a most complete and important investigation into the Behring sea affairs and he felt certain that the friendly feeling they had established with the United States and Russia would yet bear good fruit.

New Baseball League. COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 6.—A call has been issued by James A. Williams for a meeting in Columbus January 18 to organize a baseball league. Delegates have been invited from Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Toledo, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Toronto.

Three Drowned. MONTREAL, Can., Jan. 6.—A rich farmer named Desjardins, his daughter and a boy named Roy, aged 13, broke through the ice at L'Assomption and were drowned. The farmer and his daughter were driving on the river and the lad was skating.

St. Louis Don't Want It. St. Louis, Jan. 6.—At a meeting of the Merchants' exchange it was resolved that St. Louis withdraw as a competitor for the location of the democratic national convention, and throw her influence in favor of Kansas City.

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